

# The Free Trader.

Ottawa, Ill., Saturday, April 12, 1873.

## THE POST OFFICE SCRAMBLE.

We have been figuring on this post office election in Ottawa on Monday, and while the count showed John J. Kellogg a few votes behind, it is palpable to us that not only the worst beaten, but the worst abused man in the business is poor Cullen, of the Ottawa *Republican*. Everybody knew Cullen was a candidate for a year and a half ago, and every day and all the time since. For at least 20 long, dreary months he has secretly written an editorial which was not printed or pointed with reference to its bearing on the post office question. Not on this whole boundless continent was there a radical editor more obsequiously loyal to Grant. There was no political crime or criminal, in all those long months, that Cullen was not ready to stand up for and defend the moment it became known that Grant was on that side. He used up quarts of ink and pages on pages of his paper defending Tom Murphy, Casey and Coffey, and even apologized for Grant's approval of the salary steal.

And while the post office mania thus glued him to Grant, it glued him still more closely, if possible, to Corwin, the next man through whom the post office must come. Talk of Damon and Pythias, David and Jonathan—his friendship was cool indifference to that of Corwin for Corwin. In carrying Corwin successfully through this congressional district Cullen dragged a load to which Limburger cheese was a sweet fragrance, and under which a giant might have staggered.

But see the base quality of radical gratitude! No sooner was Corwin safely in his congressional saddle than he forgets all about poor Cullen, and posts off to Washington to secure the post office for somebody else. Butler had his son-in-law, Brooks had his son-in-law, Grant had brothers and sisters-in-law innumerable, all of whom had been extravagantly provided for—why might not Corwin in the royal example, and also have a brother-in-law provided for? So, ignoring poor Cullen, he poses the President in behalf of his relative. But the President has an idea or two of his own. "Young man," said he to the venerable Corwin, "brothers-in-law are a royal luxury, and not to be indulged in by any one below a cabinet officer." Corwin returned home disgruntled, and told the radicals of Ottawa to hold an election and pick out their own post-master.

This was the unkindest cut of all—adding insult to injury—returning a kick for favors. To ask Cullen to submit his chances to a vote of the people! Of course in such a contest the case of Cullen was hopeless. As well ask the people to vote for Johnny the Giant! When the little canons met and Tom Bowen proposed an election, Cullen put on his hat and walked out of the room the maddest man ever seen in Ottawa. Mad! You bet!

The election was an insult and a humiliation to Cullen in a hundred ways. The little radical leaders of Ottawa having no other interest in it than to lay out Cullen, which was done by having the election ordered, treated it as a jollification. No saloons being closed on account of such an election, before the polls were opened half an hour, most of the ticket-peddlers and blowers about the polls were gloriously inebriated. Though the judges construed the invitation to vote to include only Grant republicans, nearly everybody voted that offered. Over 700 votes were polled, with a number of republicans not voting, in a city polling less than 600 honest radical votes. So the joke was carried through.

Nobody cared to vote against Cameron, for he is a popular postmaster; and nobody cared to vote against Kellogg, for everybody likes him. But while nobody was willing to vote for Cullen, everybody said it was shabby in Corwin not to have him appointed.

But Cullen's mad is up, and the end is not yet! Said a sympathizing friend to him: "Had I struck to Corwin as you did, and gone the depths you did to fight for Grant and the radical party, I'd quit business and bury myself in a skunk hole!" The livid, ghastly smile of Cullen in response, and his turned-up eyes and clenched fists, told volumes.

## ELECTIONS.

Besides the state election in Connecticut Monday, numerous city and other local elections were held on that day throughout the country, at about all of which the radicals were pretty roughly handled.

In Connecticut, Ingersoll, the democratic candidate, beat Haven, the radical candidate, nearly 6,000 and is elected over the radical and temperance candidates together by a majority 3,443. This is the largest majority Connecticut has given for any candidate for governor in a number of years.

By the same election, the democrats also carry the legislature, the first time they have had a majority in that body for fifteen years. The democrats also elected their mayor and a majority of councilmen in Cincinnati, though carrying heavy weight in the shape of an unpopular candidate for mayor.

The democrats also succeeded at the city elections in Columbus, Dayton, Wooster, Chillicothe, Crestline, Toledo, and numerous smaller towns, everywhere showing democratic gains. Dubuque, Iowa; Evansville, Ind., in short, wherever elections were held, the day seemed to be a bad one for the radicals.

While, of course, no such a thing as a general break down of the republican party can be ascertained from these elections, they show at least that the popular mind is breaking loose from its moorings, and that the times are favorable for initiating a movement that shall have for its object something like genuine reform in our national politics.

That irrepressible litigant, Myra Clarke Gaines, has again won an important victory in the Supreme Court of the United States. If she could only be started after the railroad monopolists in Illinois. Wouldn't she bring them to time?

## A DIRTY TRICK.

Last week we published the proceedings of the farmers' convention which met at Springfield on the 21st inst., giving the resolutions in full. The resolutions had been passed just as we published them, and with very little opposition, on Wednesday evening, and the convention having thus done its work, and done it well, adjourned, and two-thirds of the members took the trains the same night or the early trains next morning, and returned home.

Numerous radical politicians, of the Cullen stripe, who were fearful something might be done to injure the republican party; and numerous agents, pensioners and lobbyists of the iron, lumber, salt, and other tariff rings, had attended the convention with a view to its capture and perdition to their own bases. They found the farmers too numerous and earnest, and after vainly striving to break up their deliberations in a row found themselves signally defeated and withdrew apparently satisfied.

It appears, however, when the convention adjourned on Wednesday, the secretary had expressed a desire to have some plan adopted to pay the expenses of the state association, and to enable him to perfect his financial plan, the adjournment was not made *ad hoc*, but so left that a few members remaining over in the morning could meet and adopt some plan to raise the needed funds for paying expenses not only for printing the proceedings of this, but also of the Bloomington convention, and for printing circulars, &c.

This is just what the monopolist and radical tricksters wanted. When the few remaining members of the convention met at the Opera House next morning, they were astonished to find the seats reserved for members filled by a motley crowd of Springfield radical politicians, ward hoppers, and hands from the rolling mills.

As soon as the meeting was called to order, a man rose in the midst of this motley crowd, and made a motion to reconsider the resolution passed the day before against the tariff steals, and also the resolution censuring the President for approving the congressional salary grab. An honest farmer promptly moved to lay the motion to reconsider on the table, when a vote was taken and the motion unanimously carried. The President of the convention—one Smith, who was in the plot—however, pretended that he had not heard the motion to lay the vote to reconsider on the table, but that the question he had put was on the motion to reconsider, and he announced that motion as carried, while the Secretary of the convention put on record the fact that the other motion was carried. Then another motion was made to lay the resolutions thus claimed to have been reconsidered on the table, and that was carried.

And thus the farce ended. Dishonorable and infamous as this trick was, however, it answered its purpose. The object was to break the force of the vigorous resolutions that had been adopted the night before, and cast a shade of ridicule over the whole proceedings of the convention, and this the tricksters believed they had fully accomplished. They forthwith telegraphed to the heavy pig iron and steel rail firm of A. B. Meeker & Co. at Chicago, and A. B. Meeker & Co. telegraphed to their fellow monopolists at the East, and the glorious news fled all over the country that, in spite of all the difficulties in the way, "We finally captured the Springfield convention," "but the victory has been dearly bought, and another such will ruin our cause."

And now all over the country the news is caught up and crowed over by the radical politicians and monopolists of every grade, that the great Illinois farmers' convention has ended in smoke. The resolutions, they say, simply cover what Mr. Joy calls a little local chaff against their own railroads, and on the great issue of indefinite plunder by the enormous tariff monopolies and rings, the Illinois farmers are still as harmless as the meekest pensioner on federal pay.

It is this infamous trick that the Ottawa *Republican* this week glories over, and ridicules the convention on Wednesday as having been a mere mob, and in the honest expression of their convictions "a little too fast!" When the great question of the salvation of the radical party is involved, of course it won't do for the farmers to move without the advice of the leaders. There is nothing so injurious, in such a case, as being "a little too fast!" It was so when the farmers met at Ottawa six weeks ago. Poor Cullen was then compelled to put on the brakes, and for fear the Lynch resolutions might again become troublesome, he had the county association strike a gait that was slow enough in all conscience! They did nothing at all, and then adjourned over to next haying time!

The story told by the *Peoria Democrat* on Saturday, and thence telegraphed to the Chicago papers, of the lynching of a man named O'Neil at Streator, last week, for the murder of another man, is without foundation. The man O'Neil was tried at El Paso last fall for murder and acquitted. For a few weeks past he had been seen about Streator, and the story getting out there, perhaps from his own statement, that a reward of \$1,000 was offered for his arrest, threats were made to arrest him, upon which he suddenly disappeared. Nobody was killed by him at Streator, and nobody there dreamed of lynching him.

**THE ECKELA MURDER.**—The mystery surrounding the recent murder of the widow Hedges at Eureka (Woodford county) Ill., is being solved. The murderer, Mrs. Workman, confessed the deed, but claims it was in self-defense, though there is no doubt the inciting cause was jealousy. Mrs. Workman was the wife of the Methodist minister, between whom and Mrs. Hedges a criminal intimacy had grown up, which was revealed to the abused wife by letters she found in her husband's pockets. She appointed a meeting with Mrs. Hedges in a retired place, and there the woman was murdered. It is supposed the \$150 found in the woman's pocket was money with which she had hoped to appease Mrs. Workman. The latter is now in jail, but so sick that she will hardly ever be brought to trial.

## WHAT THEY SAY ON THE OTHER SIDE.

The Hon. Jas. F. Joy, President of the Michigan Central, C. B. & Q., and various other big railroad monopolies, was recently invited to address the Michigan legislature on the railroad question; when, after issuing his order to that body as to what the railroads wanted in the way of local legislation, he ceased his mind as follows in regard to the present uprising against railroad extortion among the farmers of Illinois:

There was raging at present in Illinois a quarrel that exerted a bad effect on capital, and deterred it from embarking in new railway enterprises. He had received hundreds of letters asking his opinion as to the result of the disastrous influences at work in Illinois. He had observed that there was a bill before this Legislature making the freight on grain five or six cents a ton per mile. Now in Illinois they have a great war on account of freight. Their grain productions are moved east at a cost of about one cent, and a quarter a ton, about as cheap as it can be done. An iron road would wear out in two or three years with such an incessant traffic over it, and in the meanwhile become rough and injure the machinery of the locomotive and hasten the wear of the cars. Now, in Illinois and the West last year there had been a most abundant harvest. The corn crop alone exceeded 1,000,000,000 bushels. If it could all be got to market today it would bring scarcely a song. This enormous overproduction and its results—the low rates of corn—were all laid to the low way. The farmers said they had to give one bushel of corn to get another to market. Twenty years ago, before there was a railway in any section of Illinois, he could buy a farm of prairie land for \$250 an acre, and from second hands. Everywhere great cities holding a thousand bushels of corn could be seen and purchased at ten cents a bushel. From that time to this the Illinois farmers' ranges of prices for corn had never gone below forty cents a bushel and more frequently never below sixty. The country had filled up with population, and its products were transported far and near at a tenth part of former cost. All this enormous increase of wealth, unparalleled in the history of any nation, had been caused by railways. And yet these men, getting rich by these railways, fancy they are by means of them the most oppressed men in the world.

The young men of Illinois, who did not know or did not recall the former condition of their State, had inaugurated this hostility to the railways. Capital had become frightened by this warfare; it was useless to tempt it into further railway building projects when railway property was made thus precarious. It was this that made capitalists write him letters, often letters of apprehension. Notwithstanding all that railroads had done for the State, he believed the young men of Illinois would confiscate them if they had the power.

Not a railway in Michigan, except the Michigan Central and Michigan Southern, had ever paid a dividend. All the other roads were in their infancy—they were just beginning to breathe. If it could be believed that such would befall the railways of Michigan as were now happening to the railways of Illinois, then we had seen the last dollar that would be invested in railway building in this State, for all the lands for their construction you might.

There is no use of arguing the point with Mr. Joy, but then he either don't understand or enormously misrepresents the case. The farmers of Illinois are not demanding of the railroads that they shall take their thousand millions of bushels of corn to the east at rates that will wear out their locomotives and use up their cars without adequate remuneration. What the farmers of Illinois are up in arms against is simply the system of gouging so universally practiced by the railroads—this system of charging fair rates at competing points, but robbing the producers at points where they can't help themselves. Mr. Joy probably never heard of any cases of that kind. The people of Illinois are friendly to the railroads—have loved more than the people of any other state to build them, and while quite willing to pay them reasonable freights and fares and to let them make handsome profits, propose to break up their unconscionable system of gouging.

## THE ELEMENTS.

The week has been a notable one for great rains and floods throughout the country, attended with the usual destruction of life and property.

At Rochester the Genesee river rose suddenly on Tuesday at a rate to overflow a considerable portion of the city of Rochester. A number of people had gathered on a wall at the edge of the river to see the sights, when the wall became undermined, toppled over, and some twenty persons were precipitated into the seething flood. Most of them, however, were rescued, but several went over the falls.

The Mississippi has been rising so rapidly at St. Louis for several days that a great deal of heavy merchandise along the levee was swept away before it could be removed, and numerous barges and other small craft have broken from their moorings and been swept off.

The Illinois river from La Salle down is over its banks and the bottoms are submerged. At Ottawa the river river still keeps its channel, but that is all.

The Susquehanna, Delhatch, Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, in Pennsylvania, are at high flood tide, and immense damage is being done along their banks.

The Hudson, above Albany, is full of ice, coming down on a high flood, crashing and destroying millions of property before it. The Chenango, Oswego and Mohawk rivers, also are rampant, and mills and bridges are being swept away. The new dam at Oswego has been torn away.

Gov. BEVERIDGE starts out in a way to lose what little popularity he ever had even in his own party. He got the curses of his own party for the injudicious appointments he made of railroad commissioners, and now at a loyal paper at Dixon "goes for him" on account of his removing Dr. Everett from the position of trustee of the insane asylum at Elgin, and appointing a Kane county man in his place. Dr. E. is claimed to be a very honest, able and competent man, while the man for whom he is ousted is a mere pot-house politician.

A physician of Jacksonville says that he has learned by actual and repeated experiments that electricity, properly applied, will effect a cure in all cases of cerebral spinal meningitis or spotted fever.

## A CASE IN POINT.

The editor of the *Republican* grows liberal in argument. In reference to our position that there are other monopolies that oppress the farmers as grievously as the railroads, and which the farmers should include in the present fight, he says: "We will allow him (the Free Trader) to build railroads and hand them over to the present corporations as a free gift, and then we defy him to show \* \* \* how such policy will or can operate so as to break up the monopolies."

Well, without going into the matter any deeper, for argument with one so hidebound as to be beyond conviction is useless, suppose we point out just one mode by which a departure from the 'protective' policy of the government might avail very materially to effect the railroad monopolies in Illinois and bring relief to the farmers. Fifteen years ago, when we had democratic sway, low tariffs and free ships in this happy land, corn used to be carried from Chicago to Buffalo for 5 cents a bushel, and from Buffalo to New York for about 8 cts., so that 15 cts. covered all charges for freight and handling between Chicago and New York. At those rates corn would be worth 45 cts. in Ottawa today instead of 25 cts. But the iron lords must have "protection," the cotton lords must be protected; the salt boilers, lumbermen, cordwainers—everybody that couldn't make a fortune in a month by honest toil and open competition was getting protection from the government, and so the owners of schooners and propellers on the lakes put in their claim and got it also. A law was passed that no vessel on the lakes except owned and built in the U. S. should be allowed to carry corn from Chicago to Buffalo from one port in the U. S. to another U. S. port. The result was that some 7,000 Canadian vessels on the lakes, that kept up a very lively competition in freights between Chicago and Buffalo, were driven out of the trade, and now it costs from 16 to 20 cts. of float a bushel of corn from Chicago to Buffalo. How long would the railroads be able to charge 45 cts. a bushel to carry corn from Earlville to New York or Boston with free trade on the lakes? This little "protection" to vessel owners on our lakes costs the farmers of Illinois enough money in five years to buy every schooner and propeller now in the trade and cost them more year in and year out tenfold than all our railroad gouges amount to.

The *Republican* is unfair and dishonest in holding out the idea in all its discussions on this subject, that the FREE TRADER, or all those who, among the anti-monopolists, insist on giving this fight a wider scope, than a mere drive at the railroads, are therefore apologists or defenders of the railroad monopolies. The *Republican* knows this is false, and uses it only as a cloak to hide its own cowardice and pusillanimous subservency to party drill and bondage.

Brigham Young, like Charles the Vth, abdicates, while at the zenith of his power. At a meeting of the Mormon Conference on Monday, at the Tabernacle, Brigham, in the presence of an immense audience, formally resigned his position as trustee of the Mormon church, stating that he proposed to go to Arizona, beyond the reach of the mails and telegraphs. He has recently resigned the office of President of the Deseret National Bank, Zion Co-operative Mercantile Institution, and the Utah, Central & Southern Railroad. Brigham also announced that while thus practically abdicating the throne he had so long occupied, he has made his will, dividing his immense property between his sixteen wives and sixty children, and carefully stipulating the method of the division. It is believed that all the old Mormons will follow the changed fortunes of their self-deposed leader, and that, so far as Utah is concerned, the Mormon problem may be considered as solved.

## A CONVERT.

The Chicago *Evening Post*, hitherto has devoted a tin horn for the tariff monopolists as the Ottawa *Republican*, turns over a new leaf, and now declares its adhesion to the farmers' party, and its purpose with them to fight the battle against the railroad and tariff monopolists. The *Post* says the farmers have hitherto stuck faithfully to the republican party, and that party ought in justice now to help the farmers in the war against the monopolists; but having no faith in the radical leaders on the tariff question, declares for "free trade and down with monopolies."

In a recent suit a Winona justice decided that a written order to pay money was no authority. A receipt for the money paid was not valid, and the oath of a member of one of the leading firms that he paid the money was not to be believed.—*Ex.*

Perhaps the justice, like Judge Ford in a notable case some thirty-five years ago at Hennepin, when he gave judgment exactly contrary to the evidence, had the good excuse that "he knew the witnesses to be infernal scoundrels and the complainant in the suit a horse thief and a liar."

How long will a little band of Indians, huddled together in the lava beds of Oregon, hold the army of the United States at bay?—*Chicago Ex. Mail.*

The commonly accepted calculation, among the shrewd heads in Oregon is, that the army of the United States will be held at bay just as long as a certain Indian agent thinks he can get a good beef contract out of the government by the removal of the Modocs to a barren reservation. "Great aches from little tree corns grow." So a beef contract sometimes is at the bottom of an ugly Indian war.

The editor of the Rock Island *Argus* has ascertained from the Hon. John B. Hawley, M. C., that he "hasn't drawn it," and says: "We did not ask any further questions. We had a little instance of declining to draw money when Mr. Hawley was one of our Aldermen. He and Reube Hatch both declined to draw their city orders until they had made all they could out of the matter politically, and until they supposed the people had forgotten it, and then they quietly took their orders and got the money on them."

A. T. Stewart, the merchant prince of New York, is said to be lying at the point of death with Bright's disease of the kidneys, a painful and incurable malady.

## JUDGE LAWRENCE.

The following letter of Judge Lawrence was written in response to a brief note, signed by nearly all the lawyers in the Fifth Judicial District, asking him to be a candidate for reelection to the Supreme bench. While the "gentlemen of the bar" are doubtless excellent judges of the qualifications necessary for a good judge, the people generally may be less clear as to their exclusive right to nominate the candidate to be supported for that office. Yet in the present case there will probably be no difficulty on that score, as it is not likely any candidate will be presented against Judge Lawrence.

We have heard of no serious objection to the reelection of Judge Lawrence from any quarter. He may have offended some Chicago editors, but the people of his own district take no part in such a fight. He is regarded hereabouts, at least, as a very capable, honest man, and an ornament to the Supreme bench. Ever since the constitution of our state was so changed as to elect the Judge by a vote of the people, the selections for the Supreme bench have been uniformly excellent, and in no case more so than in that of Judge Lawrence. Satisfied that our present Supreme bench is all that is needed, and that it would be hard to improve it, the people ask no change, and will put a prompt veto on any efforts the small politicians may make in that direction.

GALESBURG, ILL., April 7, 1873.

To the Members of the Bar of the 5th Judicial District.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your communication asking me to be a candidate for reelection in June next to the bench of the Supreme court. I am informed that it is signed by almost every lawyer in the thirteen counties composing this judicial district. For your invitation, and terms in which it is expressed, I am profoundly grateful. The highest reward I can have for the severe labors of my judicial life, next to the approval of my own conscience, is the belief that I enjoy the unreserved confidence and respect of the members of the bar.

Under ordinary circumstances I should so no more than this, and either accept or decline your invitation. But in the present condition of the public mind with regard to this election, it is proper that I should add something further.

You have all had your attention more or less drawn to the striking movement among the farmers of the State for the purpose of resisting the existing methods of raising money for government. Soon after this excitement began, the decision of the Supreme court was announced in the case of the railway Commissioners vs. The Chicago & Alton Railroad Company. Some of the leaders of this movement, probably without having read the opinion of the Court, profess to regard it as antagonistic to the interests of farmers, though I believe no man, certainly no lawyer has ever had the hardihood to say that it did not correctly announce the law. I observe by the papers that at several of the farmers' conventions the decision has been denounced by some of the speakers, and at one of these meetings a resolution was adopted in favor of calling a convention for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office now held by me. The object of such a convention, if it shall be held, will probably be to select a candidate who, if elected, would be expected to take his seat upon the bench as the pledged agent of that class of the people to whom he would owe his nomination and election for the purpose of doing all in his power to secure such decisions as they might desire.

Now, my own reelection to the bench is to me, personally, a matter of very little moment. The labor is great, and the sense of responsibility sometimes very painful. But however indifferent I might be on merely personal grounds, or however unwilling to enter into an unbecoming contest for this high office, I have no choice but to accept your call.

For the first time in this State, since the Judiciary was made elective, the proposition is publicly advocated that a particular class of society should elect a judge, not for his professional attainment or personal integrity, but to bring about the decision of particular questions in a particular way. Every thinking man, not blinded by the passion of the hour, must see that this principle, if it shall ever become the accepted rule of judicial elections, will utterly destroy our judicial system, and with it all security for civil rights. I do not believe the farmers of this State, in any considerable number, are prepared to inaugurate a principle so destructive. I cannot but regard the attempt to inaugurate it as the scheme of only a few honest but over zealous men, who, forgetful of the character of this election, and of the nature of judicial duties, seek in their great enthusiasm to avail themselves of the first opportunity to demonstrate the strength of their organization at the ballot-box. Of all classes in society the farmers are the most interested in having an honest judiciary, for if a court can be bought, it is certainly not they who will become the purchasers. I can not, therefore, believe that they will seriously attempt to degrade the bench by implication, to base the decision of the highest court in the State on the resolutions of popular conventions.

I have, indeed, already been assured by those who have the opportunity of knowing that the great body of the farmers, since the decision in the case above referred to has come to be understood, are entirely convinced it is just and right, and that the court could have honestly made none other. I have full faith in their desire to be just. The temporary clamor arose from misapprehension, and their habitual confidence in the judiciary cannot long be shaken, merely because it adheres to those constitutional principles which judges are sworn to support, and on which the safety of society depends.

But without dwelling longer on this matter, I accept your invitation to become a candidate for reelection. I can do so with propriety, because you represent in the courts, every class and interest of others, can the degree of my fitness for judicial office. The unanimity of your call gives me, therefore, the highest personal gratification.

I offer myself to the people as a candidate, but I can offer no pledge save the record of my past service, and the silent testimony of such character. I may have established during the many years I have lived in Illinois. If I take my seat again upon the bench, I must do so as a representative of neither class, nor party, nor opinion, and with the hope, on my own part, that, in the performance of my judicial duties, I may be as undisturbed by public clamor, or external influences of any sort, in the future, as I tried I have been in the past. If the people choose to re-elect me, I shall be grateful for the renewed expression of their confidence. If they do not, I trust they will select some one who will render them better service.

I am, gentlemen, with sentiments of the sincerest respect and regard,  
Your obedient servant,  
CHARLES B. LAWRENCE.

Representative Finklenburg, of Missouri, refuses to touch the \$5000 salary steal.

## From Springfield.

**RAILROAD SUITS.**  
The house on the 4th, finally passed the Senate bill providing for the defense of the citizens who have been sued by railroad companies for acting in pursuance of the laws of the state. So that measure is a law.

**THE ILLINOIS RIVER.**  
The Canal Committee have decided to patch the house bill, with the \$200,000 stricken out, leaving the net earnings of the canal and river to construct the lock and dam at Copperas Creek. In this attenuated shape, it is thought the appropriation may go through. The bill, thus changed, passed the house on Thursday.

**RAILROAD CHARGES.**

The legislature is in a very decided muddle on the railroad question. There have been pending before one house or other for the past six weeks, at least a dozen of leading bills, which have been advanced to a second or third reading, to say nothing of half a dozen more bills still in committee—all aiming at the same object, to wit: Such a regulation of the charges for freights, and fares by the railroad companies as shall protect the shippers against imposition. By general agreement, Friday of last week was fixed by the house to take up all these measures and give them a general discussion and overhauling. The discussion was able and spirited, running through all day Friday and until late in the night on Saturday, but at the end the house was evidently no nearer a solution of the difficulty than when the discussion began. Then a motion was made, for the third or fourth time, by Mr. Hart, to refer the whole subject to a special committee of 12, who should take all the conflicting bills together and out of them construct such a compromise measure as would be likely to secure a favorable vote of a majority of the house. This proposal was adopted, and Mr. Hart was named at the head of the committee with six farmers, four lawyers, a doctor and a speculator for his colleagues. That such a committee will be likely to construct a bill that will prove satisfactory seems highly problematical; yet it is evident the legislature will not dare to adjourn without passing some measure on the subject, whether it shall amount to anything or not.

**ADJOURNMENT.**  
The resolution to adjourn, which had been made the special order for Tuesday, was on that day again postponed to Friday. The chances of an adjournment before May grow thinner every day, though one of the farmers from the southern counties declare the blue birds about their homes are as big as quails.

**DOUGLAS MONUMENT.**  
The committee on appropriations recommended the passage of a bill appropriating \$50,000 for the completion of the Douglas monument at Chicago, and appointing Walter B. Scates, David A. Gage, J. H. McVicker, Frank T. Sherman, and Joseph B. Chandler Commissioners to spend the money.

**THE DENTISTS.**  
A bill passed the house on Wednesday providing for the appointment by the Illinois Dental Society, of a board of examiners, and forbids all persons practicing the dental profession in the state that shall not have passed an examination by this board.

**SUNDRIES.**  
The bill to promote the science of medicine by allowing certain duties to be taken for dissection, passed the house on Wednesday. So a bill to amend that prohibiting domestic animals from running at large.

So the Senate bill, to provide for the health and safety of miners.

The act to repeal the amous lake front bill of the last session—a bill over which Chicago has been boring the legislature unspeakably all winter, finally passed the senate on Wednesday.

**HOW THE WIND IS BLOWING.**—The DeKalb county farmers held a convention last week, at which, after denouncing railroad extortions, and the salary steal in congress, they also resolved—That iron, lumber and all should be admitted free of duty in the ports of the U. S.

The farmers in the town of Eden, in this county, on the 20th ult., unanimously resolved—That the principle of free trade is in sympathy with the masses, and its tendency a benefit as a whole.

The farmers of Knox county supplemented their anti-railroad extortion resolutions with a resolve—

That the injustice of a protective tariff is of a piece with that of railroad extortion, and that there can be no permanent relief from the one without relief from the other.

The Wellington, Ill. farmers' club, on the 20th inst., adopted the following resolution

Resolved, That the present system of protective tariff fosters money monopolies.

Vice President Wilson, after pocketing his \$5,000 salary grab from the treasury, has had compunctious visitings, and retraced the money. One of his brother senators is said to have remarked, on being informed of the fact, that "it was characteristic of his greasy hypocrite to first draw the money and then return it when he found there was a public clamor against his holding it."

Senator Fenton, of New York, indignantly refused to touch the pitch.

H. C. E. Shepard, a member of the New Jersey state senate, was arrested for bribery last week, the charge against him being that he took \$2,500 of Tom Scott and agreed to vote for his monopoly scheme, but on the question coming up in the senate, he voted the other way. The doctrine a New Jersey is when a man is fairly bribed he ought to stay bribed.

Arkansas wants to take the benefit of the bankrupt law. She has been under the control of the carpet-baggers and niggers for six years, and what else was to be expected? South Carolina is in the same predicament; and Louisiana and Alabama are on the verge of it. No strong box, not even that of Uncle Sam, can hold out six years against a run of niggers and carpet-baggers.

Herman Silver, Esq., of this city, as been appointed by Gov. Beveridge as one of the commissioners of this site to the World's Fair at Vienna next summer. Should his health permit, Mr. S. will make a very creditable representative of a state at the great "exposition" in question.